

**AGENDA ITEM III B**

**PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**L. E. FLETCHER TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**A.A.S. IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY**

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#### **A.A.S. IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At its meeting on June 26, 2003, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

**Approval is granted for the request from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to recognize Louisiana Technical College L. E. Fletcher and Sowela campuses as "Technical Community Colleges" within the LCTCS.**

Currently, the Fletcher Technical Community College (FTCC) offers four programs in allied health: three certificate programs (Phlebotomy; Procedural Medical Coding, and Nurse Assistant) and a Diploma in Practical Nursing. The proposed program would be the first associate-level, academic degree in allied health offered by the College.

##### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

#### **1. Objectives/Description**

The proposed program is designed to produce graduates competent in the art and science of radiography and prepared to write the National Certification Examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. Those who pass the exam hold the professional title of Registered Technologist in Radiography (R.T.)

#### **2. Curriculum**

The curriculum requires general education coursework (15 hours) and a concurrent sequence of classroom and laboratory/clinical training in image production, procedures, technology, pathology, and practice. Related required courses are in such areas as anatomy and physiology, psychology, medical terminology, and bioethics. Total credit hours: 72.

Reviewing the proposed curriculum, the staff asked what could be done to incorporate clinical observation during the introductory course (RADT 1010). The College responded:

*We propose to include as an admission requirement that a certain number of volunteer hours (to be determined by the Radiologic Technology Admissions Team) be required. Each applicant would present documentation of volunteer service done only in Radiology and shadowing a technologist (not in the fileroom or reception area). This admission*

*requirement would facilitate retention... If volunteer observation were a required component of admission, additional observation would not have to be built-in to RADT 1010.*

The staff also forwarded to the College several concerns regarding course sequencing from in-state reviewers. The College has responded appropriately to each. Finally, the College agreed to an in-state reviewer suggestion to remove a course entitled Principles of Mammography from the entry-level curriculum, as it is considered too specialized for entry-level instruction. The College plans to retain the course and offer it to graduates of the program and working professionals.

### **3. Need**

There are four public associate-level programs in Radiologic Technology in Louisiana: at Delgado Community College, LSUE, LSUA, and Southern University at Shreveport. The proposed program at FTCC would serve the bayou territory of Terrebone and its contiguous parishes.

The College notes that the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans (MHCNO) has identified a regional vacancy rate of 9.5% per year in radiologic technology positions (*2003 Employment Demand Survey*). The College has also conducted a needs assessment survey of regional hospitals in its area: seven facilities report a total of seven (7) current vacancies. If the number of recent hires is an accurate reflection of continuous demand, however, a projected average of two vacancies per year per facility appears warranted. The College also observes from MHCNO data that more than 30% of practicing RTs have been in the field for over twenty years, so retirements are expected to fuel demand.

### **4. Students**

FTCC projects the following enrollment:

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
<b>Headcount</b>	15	30	30	30	30
<b>Graduates</b>	0	10	20	20	20

Students are expected to come from high school graduates, entry-level health-care workers seeking advancement, Health Science majors at Nicholls State University (NSU), and the general public who would be attracted to the program by advertisement. Admission requirements include a high school diploma or GED certification, relevant transcripts, and an enhanced ACT composite score of 18. The College also reports that NSU has recorded significant interest in this program among its own students.

### **5. Faculty**

The College plans to hire two full-time faculty to initiate the program: a full-time Program Director and a full-time Clinical Coordinator. A tentative agreement has been reached with a prospective Program Director, and both parties expect that employment would start in the Spring. The Clinical Coordinator and additional adjunct instructor positions (to teach general education courses) remain to be filled.



The College administration is sharply aware of the importance of appropriate SACS-COC credentials for all faculty at FTCC. The College has one English instructor with such credentials and has recently (December 17<sup>th</sup>) hired a Mathematics instructor with the same. Nicholls State University has agreed in writing to assist FTCC in locating additional, appropriately-credentialed instructors for FTCC's program.

## **6. Library**

From the proposal:

*The current library holdings at L. E. Fletcher campus in related fields are not adequate to initiate the proposed program. Needed reference material will be acquired before admitting Radiologic Technology students. Existing general reference books, periodicals, and other support materials in the area of nursing and general health care are available. Students will have immediate access to the internet and on-line resources. Students will also have access to the state medical library resources at LSU-Chabert Medical Center in Houma; at the Terrebonne Parish Public Library, a new state-of-the-art information center with the capability to provide research assistance and material, textbooks and technical manuals on reserve, access to online information services, and interlibrary loans; at Terrebonne General Hospital; and at Nicholls State University through a cooperative use agreement. In addition, as L. E. Fletcher Campus transitions to a community and technical college, library staff and services will be expanded to meet SACS/COC standards.*

## **7. Facilities/Equipment**

From the proposal:

*There are no radiologic facilities currently available to be assigned to this program. Classroom space will be scheduled into existing classrooms in the Nicholls State Allied Health Building on Civic Center Drive in Houma, adjacent to the new Terrebonne Parish Public Library. Radiologic positioning labs and clinical experience rotations will be scheduled at area hospitals.*

*Long term, the proposed program will require new facilities. The campus will lease space until permanent facilities are available and, due to expressed support from local hospitals and healthcare facilities, does not anticipate the need to build a complete radiologic technology/positioning lab on site. However, additional moveable equipment must be purchased for classroom instruction and simulated laboratory experience in the proposed program. A computer lab will be available, where students will learn the use of clinical databases and will gain experience in applying this data to clinical decision-making.*

## **8. Administration**

The program will be administered by a Program Director within the Health Occupations Department.

## **9. Accreditation**

According to Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 - Program Accreditation, accreditation of this program is *mandatory* by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Before the program is accredited, the institution must be accredited by SACS/COC. The College plans to apply for SACS/COC candidacy this coming year (2004) and notes that all appropriately-credentialed staff must (and will) be hired before applying.

## **10. Budget**

The College projects the following budget for the program:

	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
<b>Faculty</b>	\$ 48,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000
<b>Library</b>	5,000	2,000	1,500	1,500
<b>Supplies</b>	32,000	5,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Moveable Equipment</b>	60,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
<b>Lease (\$1800/sem.)</b>	3,600	4,500	4,500	4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 148,600</b>	<b>\$ 132,500</b>	<b>\$ 129,000</b>	<b>\$ 129,000</b>

The College projects the following revenue sources for the program:

	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
<b>State</b>	\$ 137,200	\$ 109,700	\$ 106,200	\$ 106,200
<b>Tuition, fees, etc.</b>	11,400	22,800	22,800	22,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 148,600</b>	<b>\$ 132,500</b>	<b>\$ 129,000</b>	<b>\$ 129,000</b>

**Staff note:** At the time of the writing of the proposal, the College was obligated by law to charge a tuition of no more than \$20.00 per credit hour. That fee is now \$21.00 per credit hour. Now that the College has been re-designated as a “technical community college,” efforts are being made to make the College’s tuition schedule comparable to those in place at other community colleges.

## **STAFF SUMMARY**

The structure of the proposed curriculum is sound, and the College has responded appropriately to the concerns of in-state reviewers and staff. Need for the program in the College’s immediate area is evident. Moreover, this program’s approval is needed in order for the College to apply for SACS/COC candidacy in 2004.

As for faculty and other resources, the staff observes first that the College is in the process of transition. During this time, it is evident that the College has forged, both by necessity and inclination, strong relationships with high-quality educational and healthcare institutions in the area. These relationships are obviously crucial to the success of the program's initial implementation (which the College anticipates to be August, 2004). The coordination of dispersed resources requires careful attention. Though much has been accomplished to date thanks to the leadership of FTCC's administration, the current lack of a full-time Program Director is obviously fatal to program development.

Accordingly, the staff recommends that the program be approved conditionally, with an implementation date to be set once the College has supplied evidence that it has hired a full-time, appropriately-credentialed faculty member to direct the program.

### ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant conditional approval for the request from L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College to establish an Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology program (CIP Code 51.0907). Once an appropriately-credentialed full-time Program Director has been hired, the Board of Regents will consider an implementation date for the program.***